



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q65683

Hiroyuki INABA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/919,808

Group Art Unit: 2675

Confirmation No.: 4296

Examiner: Paul A. BELL

Filed: August 02, 2001

For: DISPLAY CONTROL DEVICE

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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 20, 2004, reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Request, claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakadozono (U.S. Patent No. 5,121,112) in view of Watabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,936; hereafter "Watabe"). Applicant respectfully traverses the prior art rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 12 are directed to a display control device. Claim 1 recites:

an input signal processing section for processing an input signal;
a display section for displaying an image;

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/919,808

a first display control section for processing an output signal from the input signal processing section and outputting a first display signal to be displayed on the display section;

a second display control section operated by an operating system program, the second display control section for processing the first display signal from the first display control section and outputting a second display signal to be displayed on the display section; and

a signal switching section for outputting the second display signal from the second display control section on to the display section at the normal time, the signal switching section for outputting the first display signal from the first display control section onto the display section when an abnormal condition of the second display control section is detected.

Claim 12 recites similar limitations.

With regard to claims 1 and 12, the Examiner asserts that Nakadozono discloses all of the features of the claimed invention except for the second display control section and the signal switching section. However, the Examiner cites Nakadozono for allegedly disclosing “a vehicle control system, which illustrates the concept of using a plurality of controllers and a detect means for detecting a fault, overload or runaway condition in [a] controller and then switching the load or task of the faulty controller to another controller to perform the backup” The Examiner further asserts that “[i]t would have been obvious ... to modify the Nakadozono first display control system to have a plurality of “controllers” to include at least a first display control section (first controller) and a second display control section (controller) as taught by Watabe et al. because Watabe et al.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/919,808

gives numerous motivational statements in column 22, lines 11-35 for improving a[n] apparatus like Nakadozono by using multiple controllers.”¹

Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention would not have been rendered obvious because Nakadozono and Watabe do not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims and (2) one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine and modify the teachings of the cited references to produce the claimed invention. In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that it is quite clear that even if Nakadozono is modified base on the teachings of Watabe, the resulting device would not include all of the features of the claimed invention.

Nakadozono discloses a display system for a vehicle includes a plurality of sensors detecting various vehicular conditions, a priority determining module, a display control module, and display unit having two display segments (see Figs. 1 and 2). Output signals from the sensors are provided to the priority determining module which assigns each signal a degree of priority of high or low level. If the received signal is high level, the display control module displays information indicated by the received signal on both segments of the display unit. On the other hand, if the received signal is low level, the display control module interrupts indications on one of the display segments and displays information indicated by the received low level signal on the interrupted display segment.

Watabe discloses a distributed control system includes a plurality of controllers each composed of a plurality of processors and being coupled through a network.. Each controller includes a scheduler for measuring a load; internal backup means for controlling which controller

¹ Office Action at pages 2 and 3.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/919,808

bears the load; backup request means for requesting another controller to bear the load; and backup accept means for answering to a request for bearing the load from another controller in accordance with the load of the requesting controller. As a result, the load which cannot be executed by one controller can be distributed and executed by other controllers in accordance with their loads.

Although the Examiner's proposed combination of Nakadozono and Watabe may provide multiple controllers (control sections) which can process the same sensor signal output from a sensor or an interface circuit linked to the sensor, nowhere the combined references do not teach or suggest that a second display control section receives and processes a first display signal to be displayed on the display section and outputs a second display signal to be displayed on the display section, wherein the first display signal is generated by a first control section, as required by claims 1 and 12. That is, the claimed invention requires the second display control signal further processes the first display signal (which is displayed on the display unit) generated by processing the output signal from the input signal processing section via the first display control section. Nowhere do the cited references teach this manner of connection and processing between the first and second display control sections.

In addition to the reasons set forth above, independent claim 12 should be allowable because the combined references does not teach or suggest "the first and second display signals comprise image data regarding the vehicle condition, and the image data of the display signal from the first display control section has a lower resolution than the image data of the display signal from the second display control section", as further required by independent claim 12. The Examiner contends that Nakadozono "teaches the concept of high and low resolution because when the signal

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/919,808

is high priority[,], it is displayed on both segments (this reads on high resolution) and when the signal is low priority it is [displayed on] only one display segment (this reads on low or half resolution).” The Examiner further asserts that “it is obvious that the secondary controller of Watabe et al. would provide more information than the emergency backup first controller used when there is a failure of the more complex secondary controller because it would be logical and cost effective to provide only the minimum level of information until the more complex secondary controller is fixed or replaced.”²

However, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner’s position is improper since neither reference provides any teachings whatsoever with regard to the resolution of the displayed images. In particular, displaying the same signal with the same resolution on one or two display segments, as disclosed by Nakadozono, is in no way comparable or analogous to displaying signals with different resolutions.³ Further, the Examiner’s characterization of the teachings of Watabe is incorrect since the reference does not disclose a one controller would provide more information or is more complex than any of the other controllers. That is, Watabe simply discloses using a plurality of controllers of the same type such that if one controller fails, another controller can be utilized in its place.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits independent claims 1 and 12, as well as dependent claims 2-11, should be allowable over Nakadozono and Watabe.

² Office Action at pages 3 and 4.

³ “Resolution” is the degree of sharpness of an image, e.g., as measured by the number of pixels per square inch on a display screen.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/919,808

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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